Chapter 7

下天の華

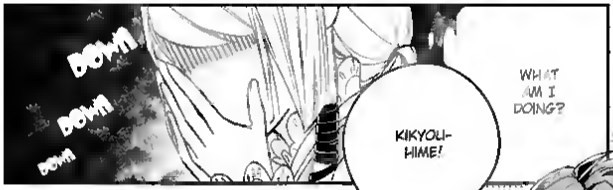
HEY, RANMARU! YOU'RE WORK-ING HARD!
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT I FAILED TO CAPTURE HIM THAT NIGHT...
If only I had more power
...YOU REFER TO THE INTRUDER?
HIDEYOSHI-DONO
HEY, HEY, HAVE YOU HEARD THAT RUMOR?
RUMOR... you say?
AH, NO, NOT THAT. THE ONE FROM THE IMPERIAL COUR-
I'M GETTING A BAD FEELING
IEYASU-DONO!!!
COME EXCHANGE BLOWS WITH RANMARU...
I... UH...
HIDEYOSHI-DONO PLEASE BE MY OPPONENT
INCH

SWOOSH
NO ONE HAS WON AGAINST HIM IN A DASH
Twinkle
...AS EXPECTED, HE IS AS SWIFT AS HIS NICK-NAME.
SO YOU'VE HAD A MATCH IN THAT?
Despite his strength, he doesn't like to fight.
HIME-SAMA, IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
You're in such a hurry...
DASH
DASH
DASH
...NO NOTHING IN PARTICULAR.
...!
Oh!

EXCUSE ME...!
Dash
THAT'S WHAT HE SAYS, KIKYOU.
I APOLOGIZE FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR GAIETY....

I ran away on reflex!
NOBUYUKI, MITSUHIDE, HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO WATCH ON?
AH!


DOWN
DOWN
DOWN
KIKYOU-HIME!
WHAT AM I DOING?

I HATE TO INTRUDE, HOWEVER
IT SEEMED YOU'D INTENDED TO DISCUSS WORK, SO I DID NOT WISH TO INTRUDE...
YOU RAN OUTSIDE SO SUDDENLY...

HEY, HAVE YOU HEARD?
HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH A THING?
Isn't the Princess of Akechi becoming more and more beautiful?
MIGHT IT NOT HAVE BEEN US DOING THE INTRUDING?
NOBUYUKI-SAMA

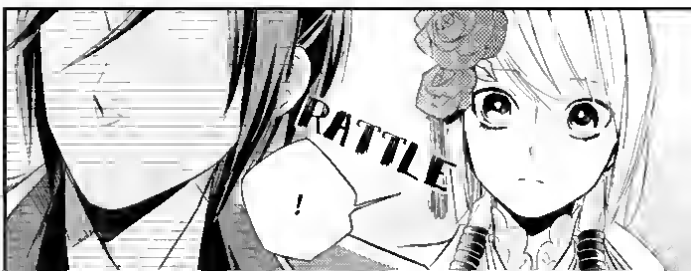
AN IMPERIAL ENVOY ENTERED THE CASTLE THIS MORNING
Could it be the intruder?
In truth! Nakunaga-sama...
What is it?
HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED?
AN IMPERIAL ENVOY?
THEY RUN ERRANDS FOR THE IMPERIAL COURT.
EVERYONE IS WONDERING WHAT THE IMPERIAL COURT WANTS FROM MY ELDER BROTHER
M-MY APOLOGIES
You dashed outside so suddenly
BUT I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
EVEN I VISITED HIM TO CONFIRM THIS,
SAY, HIME,
WON'T YOU ACCOMPANY ME FOR A WHILE?

CHATTER
CHATTER
Yes, sir, the bill!
IS THE AREA OUTSIDE THE CASTLE SUCH A CURIOSITY?
AH! YES. THESE ARE...
CHATTER
Welcome!
DRIED PERSIMMONS... THEY'RE THE SPECIALTY OF THIS REGION.
IN THE PAST, MY BROTHER AND I OFTEN SHARED THEM TO EAT.
IT'S A WONDERFUL THING TO BE ABLE TO SHARE WHAT YOU LIKE.
Hm.

HERE YOU GO.
I-IS IT ALL RIGHT?
YES, CERTAINLY.
BITE?
IT'S SWEET AND DELICIOUS!
IS IT NOT?
BOTH OF US LOVE THEM, YOU SEE.
Nohunisa-sama is so well...

WAAAHHH!
KOUME IS— KOUME IS—!
QUIET!
DON'T WAIL JUST BECAUSE A DOG DIED!
THROW IT AWAY ALREADY!

Sob
Sob
BUT, KOUME IS MY PRECIOUS FAMILY—


RATTLE
!

Pat
YOU TREASURED THIS DOG, KOUME, DID YOU NOT?
THEN, AS YOU WOULD WITH FAMILY,
BUILD A GRAVE, AND MOURN FOR IT.
IF YOU KNOW NOT THE METHOD, I CAN LEND A HAND
Nobuyuki-sama...

STEP
STEP
STEP
I KNOW, I'LL PICK THEM!
AND NOW, HOW ABOUT SOME FLOWERS?
ARE THERE FLOWERS KOUME MIGHT HAVE LIKED?
FLOW-ERS...?
NOBU-YUKI-SAMA, YOU ARE A VERY GENTLE PERSON.
YOU ARE THE GENTLE ONE.
!
GENTLE... YOU SAY?

I WAS HAPPY...
THAT YOU PROTECTED THE FLOWERS MY FATHER LOVED FROM THE WIND.
At that time
.....

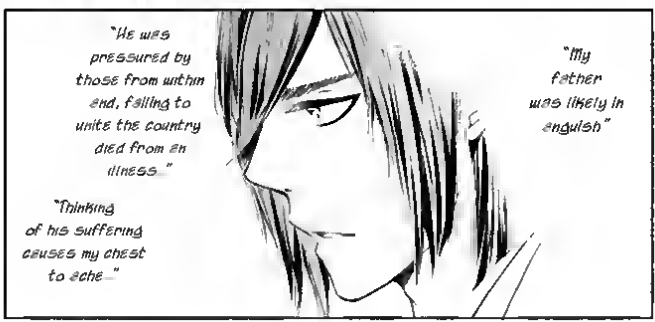
ST ARE
Such cute flowers.
Thank you!!
At that time it seemed as if Nobuyuki-sama himself
...WE SHOULD RETURN SOON.
BUT NOBUYUKI-SAMA, YOU STILL HAVE YOUR BUSINESS TO
WAS IT NOT DELECTABLE?
DNP

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE IMPERIAL ENVOY?
WELL OBVIOUSLY, WITH NOBUNAGA-SAMA'S ABILITY!
HIS DECEASED FATHER WOULD CERTAINLY BE PROUD AS WELL!
BUT, HIS FATHER MIGHT HAVE DETESTED HIS ACTIONS AT THE FUNERAL.
Detested.?
NOBUYUKI, KIKYOU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Nothing. Let's be ope
HUH...?
At that time, he seemed as passing as the snapped spider lily
Transcendence

NOBU-NAGA-SAMA! P-PARDON US!
SCURRY
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
OH, UHMM...
OH...
IT SEEMS THE WARRIORS WERE SPEAKING OF FATHER'S FUNERAL.
Twitch
NOW THIS IS... A VERY OLD STORY THEY SPEAK OF.
Nobunaga-sama...?
IT WAS SUCH AN EVENT THAT RUMORS WILL LINGER FOR A LONG TIME

YOU APPEARED AT FATHER'S FUNERAL IN A WILD FRENZY,
AND SIMPLY LEFT AFTER THROWING INCENSE AT THE ALTAR.
WHAT?!
WHY DID YOU DO SUCH A THING...?
HMPH.
WAS THAT NOT THE PERFECT FAREWELL GIFT FOR A SPINELESS FATHER?

AS HE APPROACHED HIS DEATH, FATHER BEHAVED STRANGELY.
HE WOULD GAZE AT THE RED FLOWERS EVERY NIGHT AND SIGH.
ALTHOUGH HIS HEART MAY HAVE GROWN WEAK DUE TO THE REBELLION OF HIS RETAINERS... IT WAS A TRULY SHAMEFUL SIGHT
IF HE HAD MOVED LOOKING FORWARD, HE MIGHT HAVE OBTAINED THE PROVINCE OF OWARI BEFORE DYING
.....


"My father was likely in anguish"
"He was pressured by those from within and, failing to unite the country died from an illness."
"Thinking of his suffering causes my chest to ache—"

WE WILL CERTAINLY OBTAIN THE WORLD.
I don't understand
Nobunaga-sama...
he too should be saddened by his father's death...
If that's the case.
Brothers they may be but the way they grieve is completely different
NOBUYUKI, WE BROTHERS MUST NOT BECOME LIKE THAT.

SWOOSH
I CANNOT COMPETE WITH YOU, BROTHER...
Nobuyuki sama?
He's different from normal.
Clench
then the destination of his grief is...

Take that.
Tear
NOBUYUKI-SAMA ... YOU WERE ASHAMED OF THE TEARS YOU SHED.
ALTHOUGH YOU ENDEAVOR TO FORCIBLY SURPASS THE SADNESS,
DOES IT NOT JUST AMOUNT TO THE PAIN OF YOUR STRUGGLING HEART?

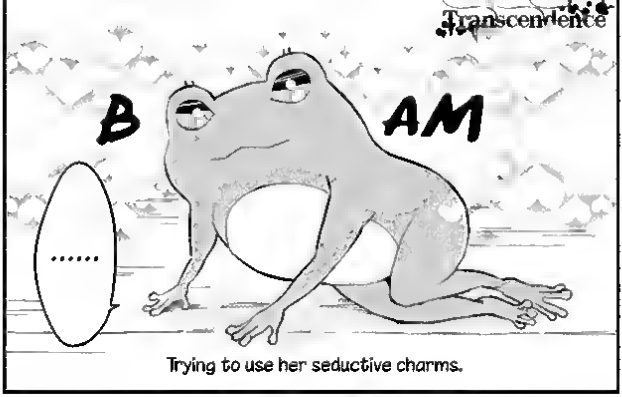
ACCEPTANCE MAY COME MORE EASILY IF YOU WEEP AS MUCH AS NECESSARY.
AFTER THE TEARS DRY, FEELINGS OF WANTING TO MOVE FORWARD WILL WELL UP INSIDE.
OF COURSE, IT WOULD BE EVEN BETTER, IF AT THAT TIME, THERE WAS SOMEONE BY YOUR SIDE CAPABLE OF SHARING THE PAIN WITH YOU
I was saved because my master was with me
HOW SLY. I ASKED YOU TO KEEP COUNSEL ON THAT INCIDENT.
YOUR SYMPATHY IS SO DEEP THAT I CANNOT HELP BUT PRAISE YOU.
HOW-EVER...

IN ORDER TO SUCCEED DURING TURBULENT TIMES AND GAIN VICTORY, MY BROTHER IS THE ONE WHO IS CORRECT.
HE IS PREPARED TO BE CRUEL,
AND WALKS ALONG HIS PATH WITHOUT SO MUCH AS STOPPING.
THAT IS TRULY... THE TALENT OF A SUPREME RULER GRANTED BY THE HEAVENS.
THAT IS WHY MANY FOLLOW HIM.

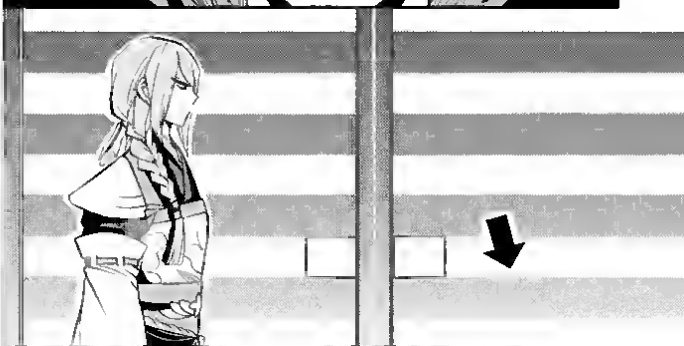
Everyone entrusts their dreams to Nobunaga-sama and gives all their effort
.....
IS HE NOT ABLE TO MOVE FORWARD WITHOUT DOUBTS BECAUSE OF THE DEVOTION OF THOSE AROUND HIM?
...I WONDER?
...?
ANY-HOW...
I MUST SUPPORT MY BROTHER AND PROTECT THE ODA FAMILY.
.....
IF YOU BROTHERS UNITE YOUR POWERS,
YOU WILL CERTAINLY UNIFY THE COUNTRY.
I must... face him as well.
Transcendence

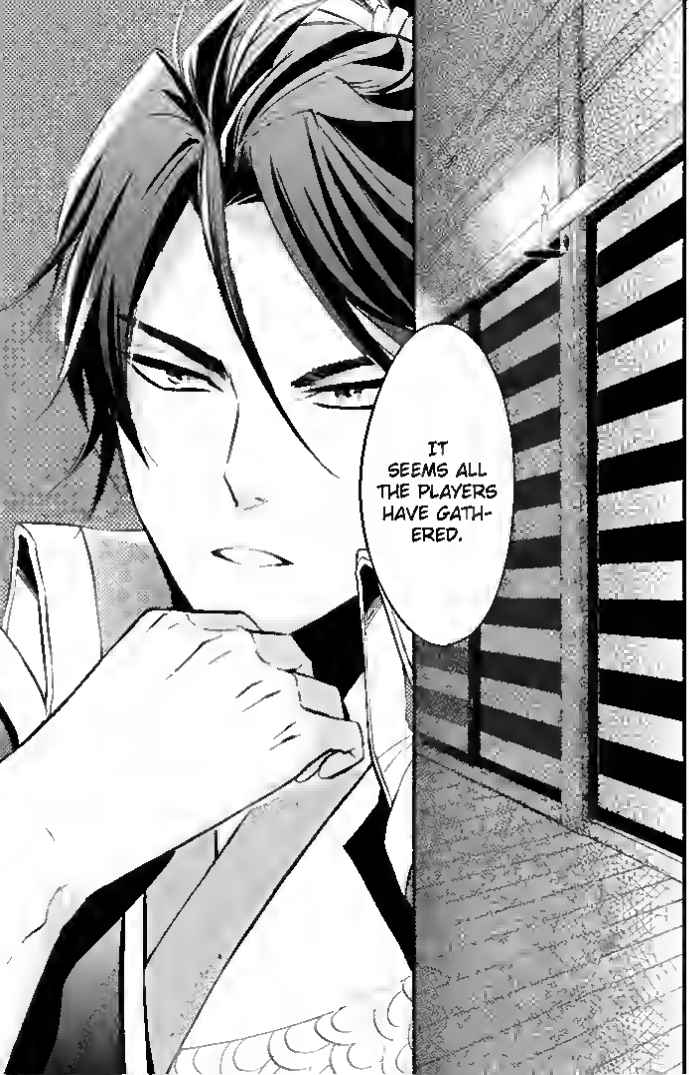
There is no doubt my master wishes to take Nobunaga-sama's life
However ninjas are beings who follow the orders of their masters
There must be someone giving him orders
And I will identify that person...!
PARDON THE INTER-RUPTION.
Seems his doubts have yet to be cleared
STARE
NOBUYUKI-SAMA, A COUNCIL IS BEING HELD...
UNDER-STOOD...
WON'T YOU COME TO THE AUDIENCE HALL?
Kanmaru
...YOU HAVE A BEAUTIFUL HEART.
HIME... THANK YOU.
...?
ALMOST TOO BEAUTI-FUL...

NOBUYUKI-SAMA, HOW COULD YOU...!!!
WHAT?! YOU ASK THIS TO ME...?!
RIGHT, RANMARU?
NO, I SIMPLY THOUGHT THAT THE PRINCESS HAS BECOME VERY BEAUTIFUL.
YIKES
Sigh
The council is likely about the imperial court.
This knowledge may come in handy
I MUST PULL MYSELF TOGETHER


Transcendence
B
AM
.....
Trying to use her seductive charms.

.....




IT SEEMS ALL THE PLAYERS HAVE GATH-ERED.

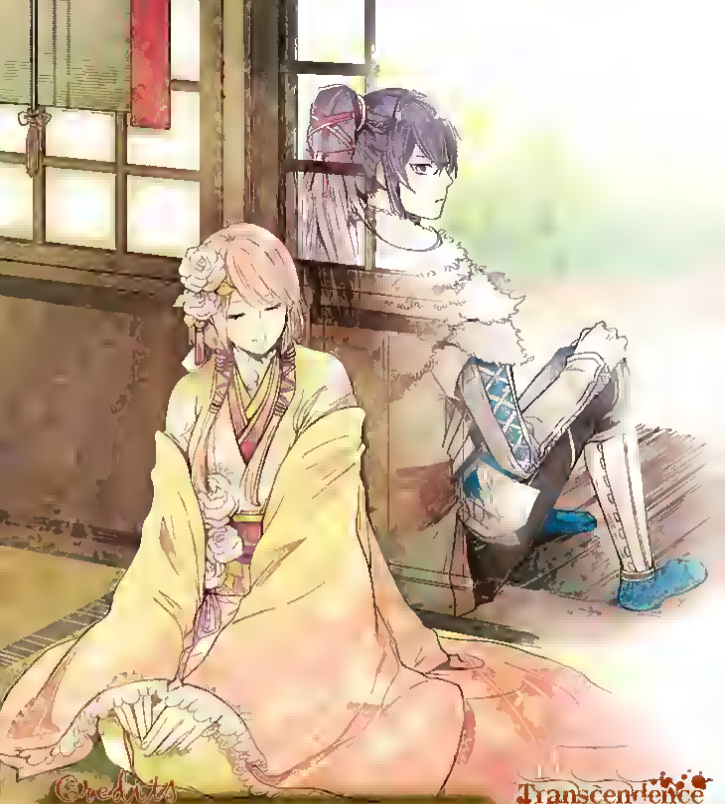
EARLIER, AN IMPERIAL ENVOY FROM THE CAPITAL ARRIVED.
Inside his sleeve
THE GRAND MINISTER OF THE SHOGUN, THE CHIEF ADVISOR OF THE EMPEROR,
WANTS ME, NOBUNAGA, TO TAKE ONE OF THREE POSITIONS.
WHAT AN HONOR... ARE THEY NOT ALL TOP-RANKING GOVERNMENT POSITIONS?
THEY SHOULD JUST GIVE ALL OF THEM TO YOU ALREADY!
EVEN NOBUNAGA-SAMA WOULD COLLAPSE FROM THAT.
CONGRATULATIONS, NOBUNAGA-SAMA.
DON'T BE RASH, NOW.

I WILL TAKE NO OFFICIAL RANK.
DID THEY TRULY THINK I, NOBUNAGA, WOULD TAKE THE BAIT OF AN OFFICIAL POSITION AND BE TAMED?
BROTHER, YOU ARE GOING TOO FAR.
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN BEING GRANTED ANY STATUS
IF THERE IS SOMETHING I WANT, I WILL GRASP IT WITH MY OWN HANDS.
INDEED, THAT IS AN ARROGANT DECISION SO VERY LIKE YOU, NOBUNAGA-SAMA.

YOU'RE BEING TOO INSOLENT!
LEAVE IT. ARE YOU DISSATISFIED WITH YOUR LORD'S STANCE?
NO, HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?
I WAS SIMPLY THINKING HOW TRULY BLESSED YOU ARE.
'IF THERE IS SOMETHING I WANT, I WILL GRASP IT WITH MY OWN HANDS.'
LET US RETAINERS MOVE FORWARD WITH THIS ETCHED DEEP IN OUR HEARTS.

NOBUNAGA'S HEAD, THAT IS.
...
WE SHALL CERTAINLY BRING WHAT OUR LORD WISHES.
HOW CONCEITED...
GRASP IT WITH YOUR OWN HANDS... HUH?
Mitsuhide-dono?

下天の華



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Chapter 07

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